

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08245 231210Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05
OES-09 OMB-01 /077 W
-----083945 232002Z /45

R 230718Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO DEA HQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SECSTATE WASHDC 8770
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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POSTS FOR DEA, HQS FOR ENM, IGIE, IGRP; SECSTATE FOR S/NM AND
NEA/PAB. FROM SAIC TARALLO.

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: GFXA-78-8018, OPERATION TAMERLANE

1. THE CONTINUED DEPLOYMENT OF TAMERLANE SOURCES IN THE NORTH
WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE BY THE ISLAMABAD DISTRICT OFFICE HAS
UNCOVERED FURTHER INTELLIGENCE ON THE MOVEMENT AND ACTIVITY OF
MAJOR OPIUM "STOCKISTS" IN LANDI KOTAL.

2. TAMERLANE SOURCES WHO WERE DETAILED TO LANDI KOTAL PROCEEDED
TO MAKE CONTACT WITH 16 MAJOR "STOCKISTS" IN THE OPIUM BAZAAR.
THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION POSED AS PROSPECTIVE BUYERS AND WERE
TREATED ACCORDINGLY. IN FACT, DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE
PURCHASE OF A QUANTITY OF OPIUM, A BUYER IS USUALLY INVITED TO
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 08245 231210Z

REMAIN AT A GUEST HOUSE PROVIDED BY THE STOCKIST.

3. CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN TAMERLANE SOURCES AND STOCKISTS
CONFIRMED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE OPIUM IS PURCHASED BY AFGHANS
AND IRANIANS FOR SHIPMENT PRIMARILY TO IRAN. A LESSER QUANTITY IS
TRANSPORTED VIA TRUCK AND AUTOMOBILE TO KARACHI FOR OUTBOUND
SHIPPING. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, THE CHANCE SEIZURE BY ENFORCEMENT

OFFICIALS IS MINIMAL. STOCKISTS AND COURIERS PAY SET PRICES (BRIBES) TO THE VARIOUS OFFICIALS TO INSURE DELIVERY TO ANY DESTINATION.

4. TAMERLANE SOURCES MINGLED COMFORTABLY WITH STOCKISTS AT LANDI KOTAL. IN FACT, THE SCENARIO WAS THAT OF A LEGITIMATE MARKET PLACE WHERE HARMLESS PRODUCE WAS BEING SOLD. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT NO ONE FELT ANY PRESSURE OR THREATS FROM ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS OUTSIDE OF THE TRIBAL AREA. AMONGST THEMSELVES THE STOCKISTS BELIEVE THEY ARE PROFESSIONAL BUSINESSMEN, DEALING WITH AN EVERYDAY COMMODITY.

5. IN COMPILING THE DATA GLEANED BY TAMERLANE SOURCES FOR THAT PERIOD (FIVE DAYS), IT WAS ESTIMATED CONSERVATIVELY THAT IN THE AGGREGATE (16 STOCKISTS) THERE WAS AN AVAILABILITY OF 38 TONS OF OPIUM IN THE GO-DOWNS OF LANDI KOTAL. THE OPIUM WAS IN A CONSTANT STATE OF FLUX, THAT IS, BEING SOLD AND SHIPPED IN LARGE QUANTITIES TO AFGHANISTAN, IRAN AND OTHER DESTINATIONS. SOME STOCKISTS INDICATED A TURNOVER OF 2 TO 5 TONS OF OPIUM PER WEEK.

6. FIELD COMMENT: ONE CAN READILY SEE THE IMPACT THAT THE INDIVIDUAL "STOCKIST" HAS ON THE OPIUM MARKET. TAKEN IN THE AGGREGATE AND ADDING THE CONSTANT REPLENISHING FACTOR FROM SOURCE AREAS SUCH AS DIR, SWABI, CHITRAL, TIRA, SWAT, GADOON, ETC., AND THE QUANTITY OF OPIUM TRANSITING LANDI KOTAL ALONE ADEQUATELY BEARS OUT THE PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR PAKISTAN'S ILLICIT OPIUM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 08245 231210Z

CULTIVATION WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. DEA-6 TO FOLLOW. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA08245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780345-0457
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780834/aaaabbwn.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61d1305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1650898
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GFXA-78-8018, OPERATION TAMERLANE
TAGS: SNAR, PK, AF, IR
To: DEA KABUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61d1305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014